



**U.S. Department of Justice
U.S. Attorney's Office
Western District of Texas**

Johnny Sutton, U.S. Attorney

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Shana Jones, Special Assistant
Daryl Fields, Public Information Officer
(210) 384-7452

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JOHN SKELTON SENTENCED

United States Attorney Johnny Sutton announced today that U.S. District Judge Robert Junell sentenced seventy-seven year old John Skelton of Knoxville, Arkansas, to 50 months in federal prison after he was found guilty of trying to extort money from a Midland businessman.

In August, a jury found Skelton guilty of transmitting in interstate commerce a threat to kill another individual with the intent to extort \$300,000.

The defendant was convicted of capital murder in Ector County in 1983 in connection with a car bomb explosion that killed one of his former employees. He was on death row until 1990 when the Texas Court of Criminal Appeals reversed his conviction.

This case was investigated by the FBI and the Texas Rangers, and was prosecuted for the government by Assistant United States Attorney John Klassen.

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